

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), for himself and Mr. BURNS, proposes an amendment numbered 4474 to amendment No. 4472:

On page 83, line 13, strike "\$650,965,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$640,965,000".

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this amendment corrects an error with respect to the appropriation for the fossil energy account. On page 83, line 13, as the clerk has stated, the figure of \$650,965,000 should read \$640,965,000. The amendment that I sent to the desk on behalf of Mr. BURNS and myself makes this correction. I yield the floor so my distinguished counterpart may comment if he wishes.

Mr. BURNS. No comment here. We support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4474) was agreed to.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4475 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4472

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, a final technical amendment which I shall offer at this moment corrects a typographical error in the bill. I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), proposes an amendment numbered 4475 to amendment No. 4472:

On page 26, line 15, strike "315" and insert in lieu thereof "301".

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this amendment, which is supported by my colleague, Mr. BURNS, as I say, corrects a typographical error in the bill. On page 26 of the Senate bill, under the section titled "Administrative Provisions," the National Park Service is authorized to purchase 315 passenger vehicles. That number should be 301.

The amendment makes that correction. And as I stated, I know that the distinguished ranking member is supportive of the proposal. I urge its adoption.

I yield the floor before the Senate votes on this amendment so that the distinguished Senator, who is the ranking member, may be recognized if he wishes to be recognized.

Mr. BURNS. We have no objection to this amendment, Mr. President. We fully support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4475) was agreed to.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have no further technical amendments at this time. I do have an amendment, which I will not offer at this time, to provide funds to repay accounts from which funds were borrowed for emergency wildfire suppression. I will not offer that amendment at this point. I am sure there is going to be an amendment or amendments to the amendment. I shall withhold offering the amendment until the majority leader, majority whip, and other interested Senators—on both sides of the aisle—are back from their visit to the White House and at their desks.

Mr. President, does my colleague have something he wishes to say? If he does, I will sit down.

Mr. BURNS. I will say to my chairman that there will be some discussion. There is no doubt. It is only fair that the leadership be on the Hill whenever we take this up because it has high interest. Many of those funds that were borrowed for fire suppression are impacting other programs within the Department of Interior and the Forest Service. So we think it is a very important amendment. We are supportive and would hope the rest of the Senate would approve of it, too.

I think this is an area that warrants debate in the Senate so we know what we are spending the money for and how it impacts those lands where the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior have a high presence.

Mr. President, I see no one else seeking the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, with the approval of my colleague, Senator CONRAD BURNS, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess awaiting the return of the majority leader and/or the minority leader—the return of those two leaders—and/or the whips on both sides.

There being no objection, at 10:11 a.m. the Senate recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 11:39 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CLINTON).

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AMENDMENT NO. 4480

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I am about to send to the desk an amend-

ment. Before doing so, let me just briefly tell Senators what this amendment is about.

This amendment is being offered by myself, Senator BURNS, Senator STEVENS, and other Senators. It addresses the critical firefighting needs of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

As many of our colleagues know, 2002 is turning out to be one of the most devastating fire seasons on record. Therefore, our amendment provides \$825 million in emergency funding to reimburse the various accounts from which these agencies are currently borrowing. Of the amount provided, \$636 million is allocated to the Forest Service and \$189 million is allocated to the Department of the Interior. These are the exact amounts requested by the President just last week.

If anyone may think that this money is not needed, let me briefly state for the record, over the past 10 years the average number of acres burned by fire between January 1 and September 3 has been 3.2 million acres. This year—this year—however, the comparable number of acres burned is 6.3 million, almost twice the 10-year average.

This problem is much more than just numbers of acres burned. The devastation and destruction resulting from these fires is almost too much to comprehend. More than \$1 billion will be spent on fighting fires, nearly 2,300 structures have been destroyed, and 20 brave firefighters have lost their lives. Clearly, this situation amounts to a domestic emergency of historic proportions.

I send to the desk, Madam President, an amendment, the amendment to which I have already referred, for the clerk's reading, after which the amendment will be open to amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. REID, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KYL, and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 4480.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funds to repay accounts from which funds were borrowed for emergency wildfire suppression)

On page 127, line 2, immediately following the "..." insert the following:

"TITLE IV—WILDLAND FIRE
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses to repay prior year advances from other appropriations transferred for emergency rehabilitation or wildfire suppression by the Department of the Interior, \$189,000,000, to be available immediately upon enactment of this Act and to